



State of Tennessee Department of Children's Services

Administrative Policies and Procedures: 16.43 - BA

Subject: Sibling Visitation

Supersedes: DCS 16.43-BA, 09/15/01 **Local Policy:** No
Local Procedures: No
Requires Training: No
Applicable Practice Model Standard(s): Yes

Approved by:

Effective date: 09/15/01

Revised date: 01/01/04

Application

To All Department Of Children's Services Home County Case Managers, Team Leaders, Team Coordinators and Agency Staff Providing Foster Care Services For Children In DCS Custody.

Authority: TCA 37-5-106

Policy

Siblings groups in the legal custody of the Department of Children's Services shall be provided with opportunities to visit with one another if they are not placed in the same foster home, group home, or other residential facility unless there is a court order prohibiting such visitation.

Procedures

Sibling visitation standards

1. Siblings who are not placed in the same home or facility shall be allowed to visit face-to-face.
2. Visits shall take place in the parents' home, the foster home in which one of the siblings is living, the home of relatives, or the most home-like setting otherwise available.
3. Visits shall take place as frequently as is necessary and appropriate to facilitate sibling relationships but no less frequently than once each month.
4. Visits shall be for no less than one hour in duration (unless the visit is shortened to protect the safety or well-being of

the child). Visits should be as long as possible to support the on-going relationship of the children and may include overnight or weekend visits.

5. This standard shall not apply to situations where there is a court order restricting either the frequency of visitation or the duration of visitation due to safety or other reasons. Such restriction shall be documented in the case file by a signed court order.

Forms

None

Collateral Documents

None

Standards

DCS Practice Model Standard – 12-400

DCS Practice Model Standard – 12-401

DCS Practice Model Standard – 12-402

DCS Practice Model Standard – 12-402

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